



tree commission
growing our community

Wilmington Tree Commission

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 – 8:30 am

Lord Spencer Compton Room – City Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Present: **Chair**, Connie Parker, **Vice Chair** Blair Walton, **Secretary**, Linda Snider, Bill Jayne, Melanie Doyle, Joe Pawlik, Kathryn Graham, Damian Maddalena, Bob Wallen

Staff Present: Aaron Reese (City Arborist), Angela Faison (Planning, Development and Transportation Representative), Ricky Midgette (Urban Forestry Tree Crew Supervisor).

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 am and noted that a quorum of voting members was present.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** February minutes were approved with one correction: Corrected spelling of Marcia Doering's name.

2. Reports

From the Chair

- Connie Parker reported that the news of the cutting down of the Sonic Oak was covered sufficiently by the Star News and she was interviewed by the TV station after the fact.
- Trees of Recognitions – Connie and Marcia Doering have visited the gardens that will be on the Azalea Garden Tour to select Trees of Recognition for April. She has been working on getting the proper signs and the committee will help to place and retrieve the signs during the tour.
- Has spoken with Charles (Chuck) Earney, CPA, about creating a non-profit organization to help raise funds for more tree plantings and maintenance. She also spoke with Danny Burbage, Assistant Director of Department of Parks for the City of Charleston, SC, who said that Charleston had gone under the umbrella of Charleston Horticultural Society instead of creating another non-profit organization. Are presently moving to be under the Charleston Parks Foundation to have free room and admin. Research to be done to see if we might go into partnership or under the umbrella of the a partner organization like the Wilmington Historic Foundation.
- Connie is researching the printing of a new supply of brochures. UNCW has offered to print 1000 for \$520, and Aaron asked for written estimates from UNCW on brochure and signs for Trees of Recognition.

- Connie is working with Linda and Angela on getting new notebooks and additional copies of materials for the handbooks by the April meeting.

From the Past Chair:

- Bill announced that Marcia Doering has contacted the Cape Fear Museum to preserve a "cookie" from the Sonic Oak and possibly smaller cuttings to create a walkway for a new outdoor section at the Museum. The Museum is pleased to have this opportunity.
- Bill did write an article for the newspaper regarding Heritage Trees, which appeared in the March 18, 2015, Star News
- We need to try to figure out an early warning system for trees in jeopardy as opposed to having notice of a tree cutting surprise us.
- Update on the 275th Tree Planting along the trail at UNCW -- finished
- With regards to a tree inventory there may be grant possibilities from American Forest Relief Organization. Damian also has several ideas and contacts who have done tree inventories from which to pull information.
- Glad to see the strong organization of the group, Ogden Preservation Group, who are trying to save some of the live oaks on the site of new construction in the Market Street and Middle sound intersection in the Ogden area.

Joe Pawlik reported that:

- (1) Aaron has helped to create new permit form for homeowners to be able to prune or remove trees on the City right of way in front of their property.
- (2) Guidelines are being amended by HPC to discourage planting of inappropriate trees, particularly in the historic district, especially street trees. He asked members of the Commission with special experience and knowledge to make any suggestions about the list of suggested trees.
- (3) Palm Restoration at Main Post Office- this project has received full permission from the Post Master and a resolution has had its first reading before ROW for approval to pay ½ costs if ½ costs have not been raised to pursue this project which is to be done by late April or early May. Received word that the June Huff Estate has funds available to contribute for a beautification project in downtown and this fits the bill. The estate would be able to project about half of the costs. Total cost is estimated at around \$7,000. Requested and moved to endorse this effort at the Post Office. Vote taken with project unanimously approved that the Wilmington Tree Commission endorses the Palm Restoration at the Main Post Office.

From the Vice Chair

- **Heritage Trees:** Blair sent out an email listing for recommended Heritage Trees Awards; one at UNCW of the Crytomeria Tree Planting; the 275th Tree Plantings along the Cross City Trail; and Kerr & Randall tree preservation are sure awards. Blair has asked Aaron to review and check out a project of Live Oak maintenance at Muirfield Place at Landfall and another on property owned by American Property Experts.
- Heritage Tree Awards to be presented April 21st to City Council
- Tree Awards deadline has been changed to September 1
- Blair is seeking source for 100 2' to 3' trees to be planted on National Arbor Day along the Cross-City Trail. Effort being promoted by Hometown News(Port City Daily.com)

From the City

- Aaron had reported that the N. 5th St Ceremony will plant one tree. Rest to be planted later. Bids are now back but has not been approved by City Council.

- 41st Street between Shipyard and Victoria Place- the removal of the Bradford Pears will begin in June and the replantings will probably be with crepe myrtles (two colors, alternating).
- On Kerr Ave, they are relocating utilities and several trees will have to be removed – some unhealthy and others in good condition..
- Several possible projects in the Echo Farms area but no knowledge to date of any significant numbers of trees being threatened.
- Angela asks that if we need her help with certificates or invitations to please let her know as soon as possible.
- Also, thought to hold: We do have an interest in the Ogden area trees as that area might be in line for requested annexation in the future

4. Commissioner Items

- Arbor Day (Melanie): There is a possibility that Melanie may have to change Arbor Day from March 20 to March 27 due to weather concerns. She will advise Board in next 24 hours.
- Melanie also reported that she will be working at Lake Fest on May 2 and Linda will check with Jen Cole of Cape Fear River Watch to determine if the WTC can have a table or an area to dispense handouts to the public.
- Earth Day (Bob): Earth Day activities will be at Hugh McRae Park on April 25, 12 to 6. He will check to determine if this is a one or two day event.
- Bill checked with Dylan Lee re: GTV. He will help make a video of WTC activities, but has limited staff now, and very busy for next month but glad to work with us in the future.

5. New Business

No new business.

Blair will provide coffee next meeting

ADJOURN: at 9:42am

Next Regular meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 8:30 am
Lord Spencer Compton Room, City Hall